

### **Shapes:** Do-At-Home Activities

These activities help young children learn shapes and colors, grouping (important skill for math and reading), how to hold crayons and fine motor skills, and new vocabulary words.

#### What Goes in the Bowl?

(Good for 12- to 15-month-olds)

Give your toddler an unbreakable bowl or a plastic container with a picture of a circle taped on the front. Give her another bowl with the picture of a square taped on the front. Give her a picture of the circle and say, "Can you put this in the bowl for circles?" Point to the bowl with the circle taped to the front. If your toddler drops it in the right bowl, say, "Good for you. You put it in the bowl with the



circle." Give her another picture of a circle and ask, "What bowl does this go in?" If she gets it right, say, "Good for you. You put it in the bowl with the circle."

Now give her a picture with a square. Say, "Can you put this in the bowl for squares?" If she gets it wrong, lift it out and say, "Look, this one has a picture of a square. It looks like this one." Point to the square taped to bowl. Say, "Let's put it in the bowl for squares." Give her another picture of a square and see if she can get it right. If it's too hard for her, put the game away and wait a month. Then, try again. Or, just let her put things in the bowl and dump them out.

### **Color Game**

(Good for 18- to 24-month-olds)

Cut out two circles from five sheets of colored paper, each a different color. You should have two circles of each color. Separate them into two piles, with one of each color in each pile. Give one stack to your toddler and say, "We are going to play a color game." Put down one of your circles, saying, "I'm putting down my green circle. Can you put your green circle on top of it?" Encourage her to say, "I've got a green circle, and I'm putting it on top of yours!" Then put down another circle next to the first



one. Ask your toddler to find her circle of the same color. Have her put it on your circle and say, "I've got a yellow circle, and I'm putting it down on yours!" If this game is too hard, try using only two or three colors until your child knows more color names.

### **My Special Book**

(Good for 15- to 18-month-olds)

Cut pictures from magazines and place them under the plastic in a magnetic photo album. Look for simple pictures that are large and bright. Look for pictures that are all the same color or all the same thing. You can also use photos or drawings. Share the book with



babies and toddlers by talking about the pictures, asking them to point to things in the pictures, and allowing them to turn the pages. Change the pictures frequently. These are sturdy books that toddlers and babies will enjoy.

#### The Artist

(Good for 24- to 30-month-olds)

Give your child crayons or markers and a paper bag cut open to make a big piece of paper. Let your child "draw" whatever he would like.



When he is done, ask him to tell you about his picture. It might only be a word or a full story. You can write what he tells you on the paper, even if you can't see any of the items he is describing. If he doesn't have anything to tell you, it's okay. You can admire the colors that he has used.



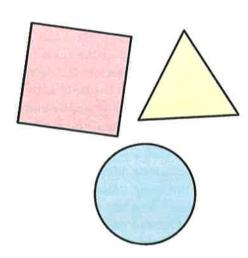
### **Literacy and Language Development**

### What your child is doing

No longer puts book in mouth right away
Points at things he wants
Tries to copy what you are doing
Pays more attention when you are talking
Shakes head "no" when she doesn't want something

#### What your child is saying and learning

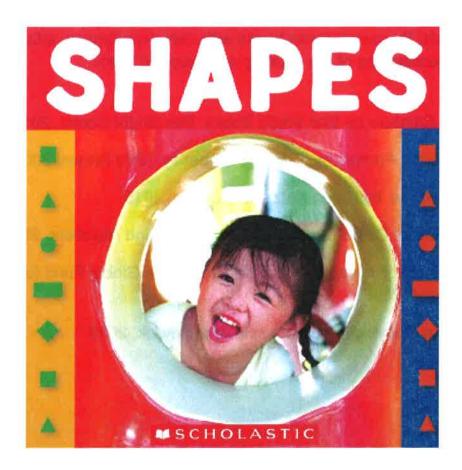
Knows about 50 words
Says single words
Learns one to three new words a week
Understands more words than she can say
Follows along as you read a book
Likes turning pages
Likes to look at pictures she can name



#### What you can do

If child says the wrong word, tell him the right word
Point at the object when saying the word
Say words many times
Talk to your child about everything you are doing while you are with him
Try to read with you toddler every day. It's okay to stop if your toddler gets tired or fidgety and start again at another time

# Suggestions for Reading Shapes to Toddlers



Read all or parts of the book to your toddler. Here are some strategies for sharing *Shapes:* 

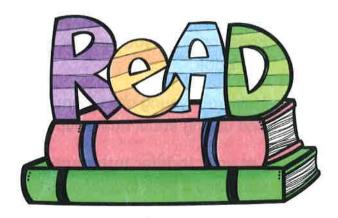
- Before you start reading, you can say, "Here's the front of the book." When
  done, or when your toddler turns to the back, you can say, "Here's the back of
  the book."
- Help your young child learn new things by **pointing to pictures**, naming colors, and talking about how shapes feel (scratchy, smooth, etc.).
- Let your toddler turn pages, front to back and back to front again. Do not be surprised if your toddler tries to take the book and turn pages herself.

Shapes is best for toddlers ages 12-15 months, but can be used for younger or older children as well.

## Other Books for This Age

Concept books are some of the building blocks of early childhood learning. Infants or toddlers enjoy exploring colors, shapes and numbers through picture books created especially for them. By pairing these books with new experiences, adults help children expand their understanding of the exciting world around them.

- Eating the Rainbow by Star Bright Books. Star Bright Books, 2010
- My Shapes/Mis Formas by Rebecca Emberley. Little Brown, 2000
- Baby's Numbers by Karen Katz. Little Simon, 2010
- Little Scholastic: Colors, 2007; Alphabet, 2008; and Numbers, 2008
- (Anytime Books: Diversity) *Global Babies* by The Global Fund for Children. Charlesbridge, 2007
- Maisy's First Colors by Lucy Cousins. Candlewick, 2013





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## Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star, (Hold hands up about shoulder height. Open and close hands.)

How I wonder what you are. (Point finger to your head as if thinking.)

Up above the world so high, (Point up.)
Like a diamond in the sky.
(Make a diamond up high over your head.)

Twinkle, twinkle, little star, (Hold hands up about shoulder height. Open and close hands.)

How I wonder what you are. (Point finger to your head as if thinking.)

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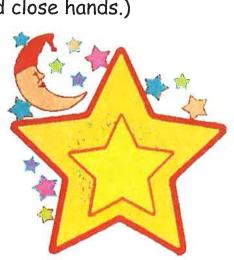
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